



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Food and  
Consumer  
Service

Mountain  
Plains  
Region

1244 Speer Boulevard  
Denver, CO  
80204-2581

Reply to  
Attn of:

SFSP-435

OCT 18 2001

Subject:

Seamless Summer Pilots (Waivers)

To:

STATE AGENCY DIRECTORS - Colorado ED, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri ED  
(Child Nutrition Programs) Montana DH, Nebraska, North Dakota,  
South Dakota, and Utah

Under Secretary Bost expressed interest in utilizing seamless summer pilot projects as a strategy to increase participation in summer feeding programs. We are supplying the following information about the seamless summer pilots in case you are interested in pursuing this possibility.

Beginning with the 2001 summer, FNS approved pilot projects for some school districts to operate a summer food program that combines aspects of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), the School Breakfast Program (SBP), and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). These pilot projects were approved under waiver authority granted in Section 12(I) of the National School Lunch Act (NSLA). The pilots will operate through FY 2004 in two California school districts (Alisal and Fresno) and three Florida school districts (Counties of DeSoto, Dixie, and Volusia).

The purpose of these pilots is to reach more hungry children in low-income areas in the summer and to help schools provide more efficient meal services to those children. For school districts that have been operating both NSLP and SFSP, the pilots offer a reduction in the paperwork and administrative burdens. With streamlined administrative procedures, more school districts may choose to provide summer meals to children.

Under these pilot projects, most of the SFSP regulations at 7 CFR 225 are waived. The pilots operate primarily under NSLP regulations at 7 CFR 210, and the school districts are reimbursed under NSLP, SBP, and school snack free rates. The school districts do not receive any separate SFSP administrative funding; they operate the programs as they do during the school year, using a portion of the per meal reimbursement for administration. (In order to be approvable as waivers

under the NSLA, the pilots have to be cost neutral, thus requiring reimbursement using the lower NSLP rates instead of the higher SFSP rates.)

State agencies must apply for a waiver of SFSP regulations on behalf of interested school food authorities (SFAs), using the standard procedures for requesting waivers outlined in our SP 97-09/CACFP-493/SFSP-302 policy memorandum dated December 10, 1996 – "Application for Waivers in the Child Nutrition Programs" After headquarters approves the initial waiver, the regional office must approve any additional sites.

Some of the special rules that apply to the seamless summer pilots include:

- SFAs remain financially and administratively responsible for all sites (as required in 7 CFR 225.14(c)(1)).
- All persons that are eligible to participate in the SFSP (defined as *Children* in 7 CFR 225.2) must be allowed to participate at pilot sites.
- Sites may only operate in eligible areas. Residential camps may not be approved as sites.
- SFA's must annually review meal counting, claiming, and meal pattern compliance for each pilot site within three weeks of the start of operations.
- All meals are served free.
- The number and types of meals served must conform to the SFSP requirements at 7 CFR 225.16(b).
- SFAs must cooperate with any special reviews conducted by FNS, including making records and operations available for inspection.

FNS will evaluate pilot operations and will require periodic and summary reports of all operations conducted under these waivers.

If you have any questions about the seamless summer pilots or about pursuing a waiver, please contact Christy Kennedy at (303) 844-0359.



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Child Nutrition Programs